

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

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RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

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*Corrections Department Honored for Commitment to
National Guard and Reservists*

(Baton Rouge) Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Richard L. Stalder proudly accepted the Five Star Statement of Support awarded by Executive Director of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Major General Bobby G. Hollingsworth, during a ceremony at DOC headquarters Wednesday.

According to Hollingsworth, nearly half (46%) of the United States military is comprised of the National Guard and Reservists.

"You, as employers, are inextricably linked to our national defense," said Major General Hollingsworth. "We could not do what we do in the Guard and Reserves without our employers."

The awards ceremony was held in the Memorial Circle, where corrections employees who have died in the line of duty are eternally remembered.

"We are here to say thank you and to affirm our support for the men and women who leave their families and their jobs to fight for freedom," explained Secretary Stalder.

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The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, under the leadership of Secretary Stalder, is the first state agency to complete all five steps in the five star process, which include:

- ❖ Signing a statement of support to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994
- ❖ Reviewing and revising employer's Policy and Procedures to comply with the act
- ❖ Training all managers and first line supervisors in the act and the employer's policy
- ❖ Demonstrating that the organization is exceeding "above and beyond" what is required by the act
- ❖ Becoming a strategic partner in promoting the mission of the ESGR

The award recognizes the Department's extensive training efforts of its employees. Supervisory personnel have completed more than 1000 hours of training and most employees have undergone review and discussion of Department regulation A-02-037 that gives specifics on ESGR and the employee's rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws. Extensive information about ESGR is posted online so that employees can access training materials at any time.

The Department also engages in an on-going educational effort to spread the word about ESGR to other state agencies, businesses and professional organizations.

President George W. Bush appointed Major General Hollingsworth Executive Director in 2001. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University in Electrical Engineering. Hollingsworth had a successful career as an international commercial pilot and as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve. He retired from the Reserve in 1999.

The Louisiana ESGR Committee is comprised of 150 volunteers statewide. For more information on ESGR, please visit www.esgr.org.

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